

sons, Garret and Zachery. The families of outstanding Federal employees have to make sacrifices, too, as they share their loved ones with a job serving the American people. I know they join me in my best wishes to Steve for a happy and well-earned retirement.

Mr. President, it is my sincere pleasure to congratulate Mr. Garbarino on the occasion of his retirement. He was a highly valued employee of the Baltimore District and well deserves recognition in 2012 for his outstanding public service career as a distinguished member of the Federal workforce. He is an outstanding example of the Federal workforce who worked tirelessly day in and day out for the American people.●

REMEMBERING ROGER DOUGLAS KOTTER

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Roger Kotter, a husband, father, community leader, businessman, and exemplary Idahoan.

At the core of Roger Kotter's accomplishments were his dedication to family, strong sense of community, and his ability to connect with his customers. Roger served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Santiago, Chile, from 1966 to 1968, married his wife of 43 years, Karen, and graduated from Brigham Young University in 1971. After graduating, Roger moved back to Nampa and started working for Stone Lumber in 1972 and became part owner in 1980. Stone Lumber has been a staple of Nampa since 1906, and under the direction of Roger and Monte Schlerf, it has continued in the tradition of providing jobs and exceptional customer service. Roger also devoted decades of service and was involved in various organizations, including Nampa Exchange Club past president—Nampa Boys and Girls Club, Nampa Schools Foundation, Boy Scouts of America, and, through Stone Lumber, worked with Habitat for Humanity. Roger was active in supporting the local Hispanic community acting as a mentor and teaching English. He was also actively involved with his church and served in stake presidencies, bishoprics, and was most recently a counselor in the Boise Idaho Mission presidency. Roger has been recognized for his commendable skills through honors, such as his selection as Idaho Businessman of the Year in 2000.

I join Rogers's wife Karen; five children, Kristin, Jason, Brent, Matthew, and Amy; 12 grandchildren; father, James; 6 siblings; other family members; many friends; the Nampa community, and the numerous people he inspired in mourning his loss and expressing gratitude for his contribution. Roger Kotter will be missed, and his legacy of devotion to his family and community will not be forgotten.●

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL KAREN A. FLAHERTY

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a great American and a true military visionary who has humbly served our country for close to 40 years in the Navy Nurse Corps, both Active and Reserve components: RADM Karen A. Flaherty. A native of Winsted, CT, she joined the U.S. Navy as a Nurse Corps candidate in July 1973. Upon graduation from Skidmore College, she attended Officer Indoctrination School in Newport, RI, in August 1974.

Admiral Flaherty's first assignment was Quantico Naval Hospital, where she served as a staff nurse and charge nurse of the Surgical Ward, Orthopedic Ward, and the Maximum Care Unit. Upon transfer to the Philadelphia Naval Medical Center in 1977, she assumed the duties as charge nurse for the General Surgery Unit and the Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinic. Admiral Flaherty reported for duty as the officer programs officer for Naval Recruiting Command, Navy Recruiting District New Jersey in 1979. She transitioned to the Naval Reserve in 1982.

Admiral Flaherty's subsequent reserve tours included assignments to numerous naval hospitals and fleet hospital commands. In her distinguished career she has served as commanding officer, Fleet Hospital, Fort Dix, executive officer, director of nursing services, officer-in-charge, and training officer. In February 1991, she was recalled to serve with Fleet Hospital 15, Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia, in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm. She served as commanding officer of the OPNAV 093 Reserve Unit prior to assuming Flag duties as the Deputy Commander Force Integration National Capital Area and the deputy chief for health care operations at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. In each assignment, she excelled and overcame every challenge and was rewarded with greater responsibility and opportunities.

Admiral Flaherty has served at the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery as the deputy surgeon general, deputy chief, wounded, ill, and injured, and the 22nd director of the Navy Nurse Corps. Her visionary leadership and executive management skills have played vital roles in forging new frontiers between the Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and the private sector to improve care for sailors, marines, veterans, and their families.

Admiral Flaherty received her master of science degree from the University of Pennsylvania and has held senior executive leadership positions at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, PA, St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington, DE, and the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Philadelphia, PA.

Admiral Flaherty's career has encompassed the full spectrum of public, private, academic, and military serv-

ice. Focusing on quality, access, and reliability of wounded warrior care, she is the embodiment of joint, inter-agency, academic, public, and private collaboration. Through far-reaching vision, dedication, and inspired leadership she improved health care operations across Navy Medicine and built relationships between Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Health Systems. Her sustained performance reflects greatly on herself, the Department of Defense, and the United States of America. I extend my deepest appreciation on behalf of a grateful nation for her dedicated military service. Rear Admiral Flaherty, on the occasion of your retirement, I congratulate and thank you for your service.●

REMEMBERING CHARLES M. PALLESEN, JR.

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a good friend who can quite aptly be called a gentleman and a scholar, as well as one very likeable person who touched the lives of many of my fellow Nebraskans. Charles M. "Chuck" Pallesen, Jr., passed away on November 26, 2011, at the age of 74.

First and foremost a loving husband and father, Chuck married his college sweetheart, Lorraine Sysel; and two sons, Mike and Ed, together with their families, blessed this union. He was also a former Boy Scout; a U.S. Army veteran who served in the Judge Advocate General's Corps; and a partner for more than 40 years in a successful law practice—Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather, L.L.P.—specializing in health care and business law.

Chuck was one of the most active people in civic and political matters that I have ever met. He was engaged in the Nebraska efforts of every Presidential campaign from John F. Kennedy to Barack Obama. He was a key adviser not only to me, but also to former Nebraska Governors and Senators Jim Exon and Bob Kerrey.

Yet Chuck was so much more than his resumé. A good friend of his, Gerry Finnegan, said recently that:

Chuck was at his best, both professionally and politically, lodged between disagreeing parties coaxing them to resolve their conflict—a masterful mediator blessed with an innate sense of how much ground each adversary could give and how hard he could push for a resolution.

This ability, combined with an outgoing personality and a keen eye for details, made him invaluable to Senators Exon, Kerrey, and myself.

Always a very busy guy, Chuck and a colleague, former Judge Samuel Van Pelt, Jr., had been in the process of authoring a book about Senator Exon. Chuck spoke to me several times, both for and about his upcoming book. Those interviews were extremely enjoyable, and I looked forward to every opportunity to walk down memory lane and swap stories about "Big Jim,"